FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New Members Appointed to Michigan's Foster Care Review Boards

LANSING, MI, May 24, 2016 – The Foster Care Review Board Program, administered by the State Court Administrative Office of the Michigan Supreme Court, today announces the appointment of the following volunteer board members:

Tanya Bankston, Wayne County
Cleo F. Biles, Wayne County
Michele Calloway, Wayne County
Rebecca Cole, Lenawee County
Tina Gomez, Wayne County
Merrill Graham, Kent County
Marcia Jablonski, Livingston County
Alice Jones, Mason County
Michelle Lenning, Wayne County
William Liverman, Oakland County

Nancy Martin, Eaton County
LaShawna Morman, Wayne County
Linda Nelson, Jackson County
Janet Olsen, Clinton County
Sawyer Saint Andrews, Iron County
Kathie Stancik, St. Joseph County
Jessica Strachan, Wayne County
Neita Sudberry, Genesee County
Brandon Youngblood, Kalamazoo County

"We are pleased that these outstanding individuals are committing their time and talents to make a positive impact on the lives of children all across Michigan," said FCRB Program Manager James Novell.

The local boards review randomly-chosen child abuse and neglect cases, and assess how these cases are being handled by the courts, the Michigan Department of Health & Human Services, and private child welfare agencies.

Volunteers must reside within the county of their local board, are appointed to a three-year term, and are required to attend regularly scheduled review meetings one day each month, in addition to training and occasional foster parent appeals. Responsibilities include reviewing selected cases of children in foster care by reading written case materials and surveys, and interviewing interested parties to the case as well as advocating for system improvements.

<u>Michigan's Foster Care Review Board Program</u> was created by the Michigan Legislature in 1984, and helps ensure safety, well-being, and timely permanency for children in the state foster care system.

<u>Click here</u> for more information on becoming a volunteer board member.